

Dear Chair & members of the committee,

My name is Becky Stockton & I reside in Helena.

I have been a judge & a Chief Election judge for about 20 years and I am in support of SB 140.

Many city & school board trustee/mill levy elections have gone to mail in ballots across the state. The county elections offices are counting the votes, so it would only make sense to have the election to be held in accordance with the primary election.

It would decrease costs, increase voter participation & less confusion for voters as to where to vote, so for those reasons the school districts should hold their elections in conjunction with the primary election.

Last session, this bill was brought forward in the House & the opponents claimed that it would be too hard to change the school boundary lines but with redistricting occurring for 2014, this should be no problem. Also with today's technology, it is so easy to redraw school boundary lines.

My daughter worked on a campaign last year in the Laurel/Billings area. People were totally confused about their ballots & which election they were voting. When she called to get out the vote for the primary, many people claimed they had already voted because a ballot was sent to them. In fact, they had voted in their first ever mail in ballot for their local school district trustee & mill levy but not in the Primary election for local & state offices. Combining the public school trustee/mill levy election with the primary election will eliminate this confusion.

Members of the committee, please support SB 140.

Becky Stockton